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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Letter dated 20 November 2008 from the representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, enclosed herewith is an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

We would appreciate if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) **Zhang** Yesui
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to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kubanychbek **Toktonov**
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(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Russian Federation
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(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
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(*Signed*) Allsher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The declaration establishing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was signed on 15 June 2001 by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mongolia, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoy the status of SCO observer States.

The charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization reaffirms the adherence of the member States to the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as principles and norms of international law concerning maintenance of international peace, security and development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations as well as cooperation between States.

Goals of the Organization:

- To strengthen mutual trust, friendship and good-neighbourliness between the member States.
- To encourage efficient cooperation in such spheres as politics, trade and economy, science and technology, culture, education, energy, transport, environment and others.
- To consolidate efforts in maintaining and ensuring peace, security and stability in the region, building a democratic, fair and rational political and economic international order.

The Council of Heads of the SCO member States is the SCO supreme governing body. It determines priorities and major areas of the Organization's activities, decides on the fundamental issues of its internal arrangement and functioning, cooperation with other States and international organizations and considers the most urgent international problems.

To implement the goals and tasks embodied in the SCO charter, the following bodies have been established: the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of SCO member States, which approves the budget of the organization, considers and decides upon main issues pertaining to particular, especially economic, fields of development of cooperation within the Organization; the Council of SCO Foreign Ministers; and the Meetings of Heads of Ministries and Agencies of SCO member States (including ministers responsible for foreign trade, transport, education, culture, defence, etc.).

Regular meetings of heads of law enforcement and Customs agencies, supreme and arbitration judges and attorneys general are conducted.

There are committees of senior officials and expert working groups active within the Meetings of Heads of Ministries and Agencies.

The Council of National Coordinators of SCO members States is the body that coordinates the Organization's current activities, cooperation between the ministries and agencies of SCO member States.

The following standing bodies of the Organization have been functioning since January 2004:

- The SCO secretariat in Beijing. Since 1 January 2007, Mr. Bolat Nurgaliev, Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, has been holding the post of Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- The Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-terrorist Structure in Tashkent. Since 1 January 2007, Mr. Myrzakan Subanov, Representative of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, has been holding the post of the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-terrorist Structure.

Permanent representatives of the SCO member States are appointed to the secretariat and the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-terrorist Structure.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has enjoyed observer status with the United Nations General Assembly since 2004.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization cooperates closely with the United Nations system on most of its major areas of activity. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is its principal partner.

Likewise, the prospects for joint work with the United Nations system in environmental protection, humanitarian and migration spheres look very promising.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between SCO and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in January 2008 in order to strengthen the institutional framework of cooperation between the Organization and United Nations bodies.

Thus, favourable starting conditions have been created for mutually beneficial cooperation between the United Nations and SCO. However, it is obvious that in order to enhance the practical component of this cooperation and ensure its synergy for the purpose of addressing common tasks in the socio-economic field, it is necessary to make relations between the Organization and the United Nations more systematic. This would be the aim of the General Assembly resolution, the draft of which is attached hereto (see annex II).

Annex II

Draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/48 of 2 December 2004, in which it granted observer status to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also that one of the objectives of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Recalling further the articles of the Charter of the United Nations encouraging activities on the basis of regional cooperation to promote goals and objectives of the United Nations,

Taking into consideration that countries with economies in transition are among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and in this regard referring to its resolution 61/210 of 20 December 2006, in which it proposed that the United Nations system enhance dialogue with regional and subregional cooperation organizations whose membership includes countries with economies in transition and whose efforts include assisting their members to fully integrate into the world economy, and increase the support provided to them,

Noting with satisfaction that the declaration on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization confirms the commitment of its member States to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization helps to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the activity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in various areas, such as trade and economic development, energy, transport, agriculture and agro-industry, regulation of migration, banking and finances, communications, education, public health, environmental protection, reducing the danger of natural disasters, and in other related areas;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening dialogue, cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and proposes that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for this purpose, hold regular consultations with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization through the existing inter-agency forums and formats, including the annual consultations between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and heads of regional organizations;

3. *Proposes* that the specialized agencies, other organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, cooperate with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with a view to jointly

implementing programmes to achieve their goals, and in this regard recommends that their heads commence consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its ____ session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" in the provisional agenda of its ___ session.